REFERENCES

DONAHUE, J.P. (1967): An annotated list of the butterflies of Delhi. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 64(1)*: 22-48.

MAXWELL-LEFROY, H. (1909): Indian Insect Life. Reprinted by Today & Tomorrow's Pubishers, Delhi.

PEILE, H.D. (1937): A guide to collecting butterflies of India. Staples Press, London.

RHÉ-PHILIPE, G.W.V. DE (1902): The butterflies of the Lucknow District. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 14*: 481-493.

ROSE, H.S. & G. VENKATESH, (1995): Notes on the biology of *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus) (Pieridae: Lepidoptera) on a new host plant *Cassia fistula* (Caesalpiniaceae). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 92(3)*: 430-431.

SANDERS, D.F. (1930): Occurence of *Colias hyale hyale* and *Pieris canidia indica* in the plains. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 34*: 591.

WYNTER-BLYTH, M.A. (1957): Butterflies of the Indian Region. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.

28. THE NOTODONTID MOTH *CYPHANTA CHORTOCHLORA* HAMPSON IN KUMAON, NORTH INDIA

The taxon *Cyphanta chortochlora* was described by Hampson (1892) from a male specimen. The distribution is given as "Himalayas". The use of inverted commas stresses the uncertainty of the specimen's origin. In the same work, the range of the genus *Cyphanta* Walker, which includes another species, *C. xanthochlora,* is given as Sikkim, implying that Hampson believed that *C. chortochlora* occured there.

Three specimens of *C. chortochlora* have been recorded from Jones Estate in the Bhimtal valley, Nainital district. The elevation is *ca.* 1500 m above msl. The data on the specimens, all males, is as follows:

26.ix.1991; 28.ix.1995; 29.ix.1995. Forewing length 2.5 cm.

Further specimens were observed but not collected. A specimen was collected in Joshimath, Garhwal, at an elevation of 2300 m in August, but the specimen was destroyed in storage by museum beetles.

Besides matching Hampson's description, the specimens examined have the following additional features; the forewing is excised along the dorsum beyond the brown mark on the inner basal area, much in the manner as the genus *Calyptra* (Noctuidae) but unlike the other member of the genus, *Cyphanta xanthochlora*. In addition to the black speck at the end of the cell of the forewing, there is a smaller black speck in the middle of the cell and an incomplete series of black specks along the termen, those on the upper half more prominent.

On the underside, the dark postmedial line is obscure on the forewing of one specimen but prominent on both the other specimens. The cilia of the forewing are green and of the hindwing ochreous.

The flight is fluttering, unlike the swift and purposeful flight of most Notodontids.

April 15, 1997

PETER SMETACEK
Jones Estate, Bhimtal,
Nainital 263 136
Uttar Pradesh

REFERENCES

HAMPSON, G.P. (1892): The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma, Moths, Vol. 1. Dr. W. Junk, The Hague, reprint 1976.

29. A NEW NAME FOR *HECALUS MORRISONI* RAMASUBBARAO & RAMAKRISHNAN

Ramasubbarao and Ramakrishnan (1990) published three new species, *Hecalus ghaurii, H. morrisoni,* and *H. pusae*. Perusal of literature revealed that the name *Hecalus morrisoni* is

already occupied in the revision of the tribe Hecalini from Korea by Kwon and Lee (1979). As per the ICZN, *H. morrisoni* Rao and Ramakrishnan (1990) is a primary junior homonym of *H. morrisoni* Kwon and Lee (1979). Hence, a new name is proposed here for this species.

Hecalus paraumballaensis Ramasubbarao and Ramakrishnan nom. nov.= *Hecalus morrisoni* Ramasubbarao and Ramakrishnan in *Oriental Insects, 24*: 389,1990.

This species is named as *paraumballaensis* since its male genitalia is very much like that of *H. umballaensis*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I thank Dr. A. Viraktamath, University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore, for the recognition of this primary homonym and for valuable comments.

April 17,1996 V. RAMASUBBARAO
Dept. of Entomology, Agricultural College
Khammam dist.
Aswaraopet -507 301
(A.P.).

REFERENCES

RAMASUBBARAO, V. & U. RAMAKRISHNAN (1990): The Indian species of *Hecalus* with description of three new species (Homoptera:Cicadellidae). *Oriental Insects 24:* 385-397.

KWON, Y.J. & C.E. LEE (1979): Revision of the tribe Hecalini Distant from Korea. Nature and life in Southeast Asia. *Kyungpook J. Biological Sciences 9(1)*: 41-48.

30. OCCURRENCE OF THE SPIDER CRAB *RHYNCHOPLAX ALCOCKI* KEMP (BRACHYURA: HYMENOSOMATIDAE) IN THENGAPATTANAM ESTUARY

(With one text-figure)

A large number of specimens of the crab *Rhynchoplax alcocki* have been collected by Gravely (1927) from Cochin, Alleppey and Paravur backwaters of Kerala. Chopra and Das (1930) reported that the genus *Rhynchoplax* is common in the backwaters of Kerala. Kemp (1917) gave the systematic descriptions of the different species of *Rhynchoplax* collected from Cochin backwaters and Portuguese India. Our description of *Rhynchoplax alcocki* is based on specimens collected from Thengapattanam estuary in Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu. Four specimens of *Rhynchoplax alcocki* were found on stone pavements encrusted with small filamentous algae and calcareous tubes of the polychaete *Serpula* sp., on the southern side of the estuary about 1 km away from the bar mouth.

Distinguishing features: The carapace is ovate in outline, width at the broadest median part being 4 mm. The surface of the carapace is demarcated by two median hexagons antero-posteriorly, and the lateral hexagons are not distinctly visible. The length and maximum width of the carapace are almost equal.

The rostrum is trilobed, the median lobe being larger and with a rounded apex.

The eyes are large and more or less rounded anteriorly and narrowing posteriorly. A short, sharp tooth is present on the antero-lateral border of the carapace.

The chelipeds are not compressed. The length and width of the palm are almost equal. The length of the dactylus is greater than that of the palm. The fingers do not gape. Three teeth are visible on the upper margin of the merus. Carpus bears a tubercle on the antero-dorsal surface.

The first walking leg has four teeth at the posterior margin of the dactylus, including the apical one. The second to fourth have twelve teeth each and long hairy setae along the margin.